

# Children's Cabinet

## February 23, 2021

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions (2 min)
- Vote on adoption of January meeting minutes (3 min)
- RI Pre-K Presentation – Pilot Service Delivery Models (30 min)
- Preschool Development Grant Update (10 min)
- Consumer Website update (5 min)
- Public Comment (10 min)
- Adjournment



# RI Pre-K Presentation

---

2021 Service Delivery Models

# Rhode Island Pre-K Expansion

Growth since 2016:

School Year	Seats	Communities	Classrooms	Additional Funding
2018-2019	1080	11	60	\$12M in State Funds +
2019-2020	1420	13	78	\$2.85M in State Funds +
2020-2021	1848	16	100	\$3M in PDG funds +

*Goal with new investments in RI Pre-K:*

School Year	Seats	Communities	Classrooms	Additional Funding
2021-2022	2148	18	model dependent	\$1M PDG/\$1.5M GEER

# Rhode Island Pre-K Expansion – New 2021 Pilot Service Models

## Overview:

- Additional \$4.5M over two years for RI Pre-K (PDG and GEER Funds)
- RI Pre-K Grant Application will be released in mid-February
- The 2021-2022 RI Pre-K application will be conducted in 3 phases
  - Grant Application
  - Facility Visit
  - Program Interview
- For the 2021-2022 applications we are piloting 3 new service models for delivering RI Pre-K, with the goal of providing access to more 4-year-old classrooms across the birth -- five system eligible to participate in RI Pre-K

## What is RI Pre-K?

RI Pre-K is a tuition free, inclusive high-quality standards-based program, built on the existing early childhood education infrastructure.

- RI Pre-K programs serve children who are **4 years of age by September 1<sup>st</sup>** of the current year, prior to entering Kindergarten, who live in the community where the Pre-K is located.
- RI Pre-K uses a **mixed delivery system** that includes public schools, Head Start programs, and community-based childcare programs with coordinated recruitment efforts.
- RI is recognized as a national Pre-K leader because RIDE requires and supports all RI Pre-K classrooms to achieve the same high-quality standards and **achieve Comprehensive Early Childhood Education (CECE) regardless of setting**.

This includes:

- Bachelor-degree teacher
- 6-hours a day, 180 days a year
- High-quality, RIDE-endorsed curriculum
- Participation in all PDTA activities
- Participation in all RIDE monitoring activities

## Building on the existing B-5 System

- RI is introducing new ways for Head Start, Community-Based, and LEA early learning providers to open RI Pre-K classrooms by building on existing programming.
- The goal of the new RI Pre-K service models is to include partners who are ready to provide high-quality Pre-K, some of whom are funded through another state or federal agency, to ensure a wide variety of options for families, and to be mindful of market saturation.
- In order to be considered high-quality and part of the universal Pre-K goal, programs must meet the definition of RI Pre-K and can expand through the new service models.
- All models will still be awarded through a competitive application process.

# Pilot Service Models for RI Pre-K Delivery

## 1 Award Full Classrooms (traditional model)

The current RI Pre-K model provides money and support to selected classrooms, chosen through a competitive RFP process, to provide an opportunity for up to twenty 4-year-olds to access high-quality early learning. The RI Pre-K awards cover the entire cost of the classroom including salaries, materials, building expenses and various monitoring activities. All children enrolled in this model are selected through the RI Pre-K lottery.

## 2 Expand/Extend Current Head Start Day and Year (pilot service model for 2021)

Head Start classrooms that meet the RI Pre-K definition -- with the exception of the length of day and/or length of year -- are eligible to apply for RI Pre-K grant awards to support the program in moving to a 6 hour a day, 180 days a year model. This would allow Head Start programs to extend the length of day and the number of days in operation. Children will be enrolled through Head Start's current enrollment process and not the lottery.

## 3 Braiding Head Start Funds (current model)

In this service model, Federal Head Start funds are used to pay for all children under the federal poverty line of 135% who qualify for Head Start. These children can be directly enrolled and do not need to enter through the lottery. The state RI Pre-K funds are used to provide Head Start Comprehensive Services and a seat in a Head Start classroom to those children who qualify for free and reduced lunch poverty guidelines (between 135% and 185%) as "below-income" families and over 185% as "above income" families based on the socio-economic population of their city or town. Braiding funding allows for children of varying social-economic backgrounds to participate in the same classroom and receive comprehensive HS services.



## Pilot Service Models for RI Pre-K Delivery (continued)

4

### **Strengthen and Supplement Current CCAP Classrooms (pilot service model for 2021)**

Pre-K age eligible children, on CCAP, and attending an approved RI Pre-K classroom, will now be able to stay at their program and matriculate directly into the RI Pre-K classroom rather than entering the Pre-K lottery. Approved Providers can offer their matriculating 4-year-olds, who participate in CCAP, the chance to stay enrolled in their home program while the remaining seats will be filled through the RI Pre-K lottery process. Programs will submit for CCAP reimbursement as they currently do, and then charge the differential of the per student cost to RIDE. RIDE will also cover all parent CCAP co-pays to ensure the program is entirely free to all families.

5

### **Transform Special Education Preschools to Gen-Ed RI Pre-K (pilot service model for 2021)**

Blended funding would provide districts with the funds necessary to provide high quality RI Pre-K classrooms by supplementing the existing investment they receive through the funding formula. In exchange for the funding, districts would sign an MOU to meet all RIDE CECE standards, share needed data with RIDE, and participate in all PDTA and monitoring activities.

## Who is eligible?

For the 2021-2022 year, only new applications will be accepted for Pilot Service Models 2, 4 & 5

Provider Type	Model 1 Traditional Funding	Model 2 Pilot Head Start Expansion	Model 3 Head Start Braiding	Model 4 Pilot CCAP Supplemental	Model 5 Pilot LEA General Education
Community Child Care	●			●	
Head Start Agency	●	●	●		
Public School LEA	●				●

# Quality Expectations

Regardless of the service model chosen, each RI Pre-K classroom functions as a traditional RI Pre-K classroom and all providers will be held to the same consistent set of quality expectations outlined below, within the RI Pre-K Definition, the RI Pre-K Hallmarks and the RI Pre-K Policies, which describe RI's vision for high-quality Early Care and Education programs.

- High-quality programs respect and value differences.
- High-quality programs create safe and positive environments.
- High-quality programs advance play-based learning and responsive instruction.
- High-quality programs work collaboratively towards continuous quality improvement.
- High-quality programs demonstrate strategic leadership.
- And of course, achieve CECE approval for each RI Pre-K classroom.

## Next steps

### **Application Timeline**

February 16, 2021: Grant Application Posted

February 23, 2021: Informational Webinar hosted by RIDE at 11:00 am

February 26, 2021: Questions due by noon

March 2, 2021: Questions and answers posted on the RIDE website

March 23, 2021: Applications due by 4:00

April 5, 2021: Tentative week of Phase 3 Interviews

April 12, 2021: Tentative week of award notifications



## RI's Preschool Development Grant: Implementation Efforts



February 23, 2021

RHODE  
ISLAND

# PDG Update - Agenda

---

**Objective: Provide an update of RI's work on Preschool Development Grant activities.**

Brief Overview of PDG

Year 1: Highlights

Year 2 Activities: Continuations and Areas to Define

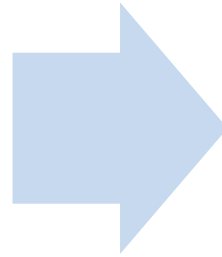
- Identify key projects continuing in Year 2
- Identify key projects that still need to be defined in Year 2

# Preschool Development Grant Overview

PDG is a competitive federal grant that empowers states to holistically evaluate and improve their systems supporting young children and families.

## Initial Grant (2019):

Supported a needs assessment and development of our ECCE Strategic Plan



## Renewal Grant (20-22):

Funding over a 3-year period, supports the implementation of the ECCE Strategic Plan

- Year 1 – 2020
- Year 2 – 2021
- Year 3 – 2022

# PDG Funds a Variety of Activities Aligned to Strategic Plan

ECCE Strategic Plan Objective Area	Number of PDG Activities
Objective 1: High Quality Programs	5
Objective 2: Equitable Access and Targeted Supports	9
Objective 3: Universal Pre-K	4
Objective 4: Sustainable Operations and Funding	3
Objective 5: Data Systems and Performance Evaluation	4



# Activities Supporting Objective 1

---

**RI's early childhood programs meet high-quality standards for care and education as defined by our Quality Rating and Improvement System**

- **Registered Apprenticeships Pilot** supports workforce pathways to increase availability of highly-qualified infant/toddler teachers. 10 applicants in the fourth quarter and 8 matriculated in January
- DHS has partnered with Children's Friend to develop a scaled version of the evidence-based **Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS/CCP)** model to expand access & increase high-quality infant/toddler slots (I/T). With a particular focus on our urban core & in communities identified in the Facilities Needs Assessment as lacking I/T capacity
- DHS is working with LISC on **Facilities Planning Grants** and, in Year 1, made 6 awards

# Activities Supporting Objective 2

---

**Children and families can equitably access and participate in the early childhood care, services and supports that will help them reach out potential and enter school healthy and ready to succeed.**

- PDG is supporting various projects in **Health Equity Zones (HEZs)** to support parents and caregivers based on community needs. In Year 1, more than 900 individuals were impacted by programming
- **Family Navigators (FNs)** were piloted in many HEZs to increase enrollment in, and awareness of, programming that is available to families. In Year 1, FNs have supported about 100 families in connecting with services
- **Parent / Caregiver Advisory Council** provided regular input, guidance, and feedback on early childhood programs and participated in the Public Awareness campaign
- As part of the **Parent as Teachers (PAT)** home visiting expansion, 165 of 300 slots have been filled by the end of December

# Activities Supporting Objective 3

---

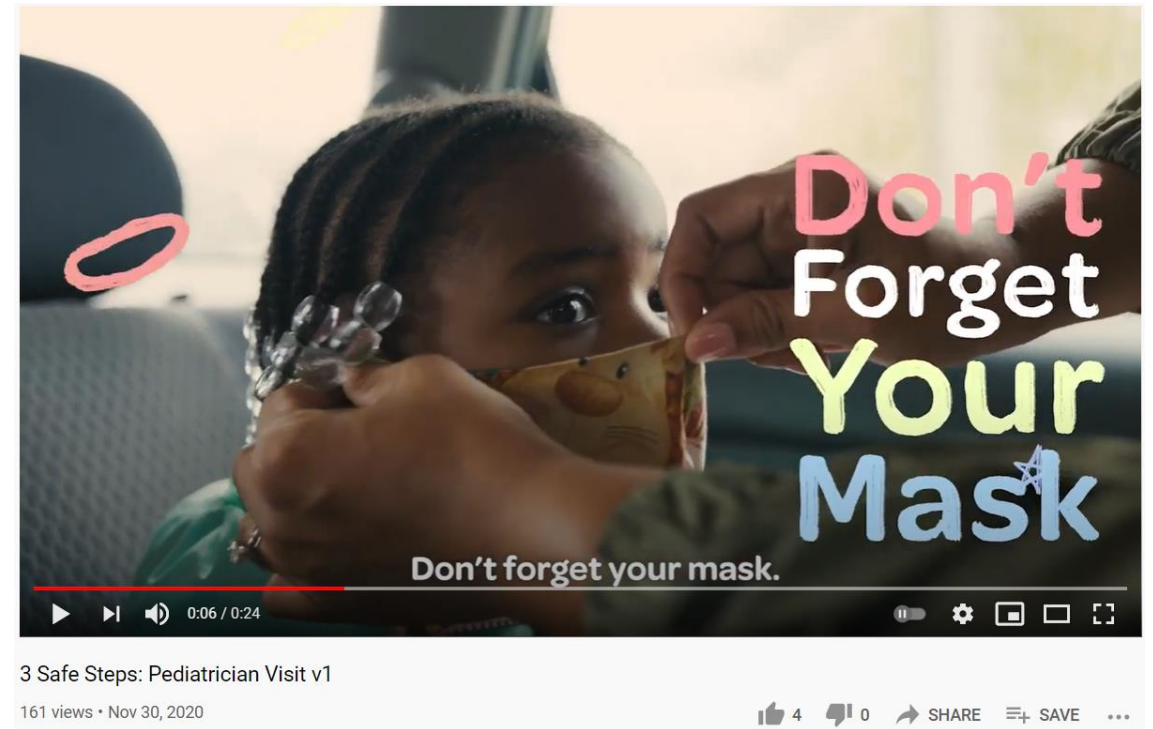
**All four-year-olds in Rhode Island have access to high-quality Pre-K, inclusive of parental choice and student need.**

- To **expand RI Pre-K**, while maintaining high-quality, RIDE developed several pilots for mixed-delivery service models
- All **100 Pre-K classrooms** remained open for in-person learning throughout the state, including the 300+ seats funded by PDG. RIDE staff was able to continue to support and monitor classrooms despite the pandemic
- A second cohort of communities worked on **Kindergarten Transitions** planning. RIDE hosted their annual summit virtually.

# Activities Supporting Objective 4

Secure the quality and delivery of early childhood care and education through increased and sustainable funding and operational improvements.

- The public awareness campaign encouraging pediatric well-visits had more than 1,500,000 impression on Facebook
- The ads included families from the Parent / Caregiver Advisory Council
- Produced in both English and Spanish



# Activities Supporting Objective 5

---

**Expand the depth and quality of family and child-level data accessible to and used by agencies, programs, and partners to drive decisions.**

- Completed a **population-level survey**, with a smaller than anticipated sample size
- Enhanced **data system** efforts:
  - **Consumer Website** updates based on needs from the pandemic
  - Staff team working on **system planning**
  - Finalizing **data sharing agreements** between agencies to strengthen our understanding of early childhood programming

# Activity Updates: Focuses for Year 2

---

**Most activities, 21 of 25, will continue their current trajectory.**

**Ongoing activities that we are particularly focused this year include**

- Expanding access to RI Pre-K by piloting new service delivery models, while maintaining quality
- Enhancing, modernizing, and integrating **data systems** to develop a long-term vision for the operational data systems in Rhode Island that informs policy decisions
- Responding to family needs' assessments, RI is **supporting access to programming** like Health Equity Zones and Family Navigators to ensure families connect to needed services

# Activity Updates: Activities to Define

4 of 25 activities need to be further defined as we execute Year 2.

Activity	Status	Outstanding Need
Public Awareness Campaign	In-progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Determine current needs</li></ul>
Performance Evaluation	In-progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Discuss process for collecting data on a regular basis and how to communicate our findings</li></ul>
Data Systems	In-progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop a long-term vision for the operational data systems in RI that informs policy decisions</li></ul>
Population Survey	To begin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Determine best methods to get representative information about family experience</li></ul>





# Early Childhood Consumer Website

---

RI Department of Human Services

February 2021

**RHODE  
ISLAND**



# Current Website – Exceed/ECEDS

Rhode Island's Exceed platform (<http://exceed.ri.gov>) has historically served as the State's Consumer website for Early Childhood & Education in Rhode Island. This platform was developed under Race to the Top and was designed to support families so they can learn about and search for licensed child care programs. While the current site provides basic information, feedback from our stakeholders discovered it has been difficult for providers to access and update their information in real time.



EXCEED in its current form **is still** available to families & programs.  
ECEDS **will continue to** serve as the workforce registry and repository for CECE/RI PreK programs to submit their applications and materials.

ECEDS LOG-IN

# New Search Functionality

This new website will feature **easier access for providers** through an administrative log in that they will create themselves.

- Through this log in, providers will continue to be able to update general information about their program.
- Providers can expect to see a **more user-friendly system that provides the user increased control over what families see when they search for a program.**
- It will be **easier for providers to update specifics** such as hours of care, availability of care broken down by age group, and photos of their program.

*This website can be accessed from the Rhode Island Children's Cabinet website (<http://kids.ri.gov>) as well as through the current Exceed website under the "Family Search" tab.*

# Consumer Search

Families can search by more general options such as Name, City and Zip Code.

If they want to get more specific information, they can search by:

- Age Group Served
- Setting (FCC, Center)
- Quality Level
- CCAP approval
- Accreditations

Google Translate at the top corner allows the ability to translate the page into several different languages.

The screenshot shows the 'Rhode Island Department of Human Services' website. At the top right is the state seal and a 'Select Language' dropdown menu with the text 'Powered by Google Translate'. The main heading is 'Search Rhode Island Child Care'. Below this are three input fields: 'Provider Name' (with placeholder text 'Provider Name'), 'City' (with placeholder text 'City'), and 'Zip Code' (with placeholder text 'Zip Code'). To the right of these fields is a link that says 'Expand All'. Below the input fields are five expandable sections, each with a dropdown arrow and a title: 'Age Group Served', 'Setting', 'Quality Levels', 'Financial Assistance', and 'Accreditations'. Each section contains several checkboxes with labels: 'Age Group Served' includes 'Infants (6 weeks-18 months)', 'Toddlers (18 months-3 years)', 'Preschool (3-5 years)', and 'School Age (5-13 Years)'; 'Setting' includes 'Center Based', 'Family Home', and 'School Based'; 'Quality Levels' includes 'DHS Licensure', 'BrightStars Rating', and 'RIDE CECE Approval'; 'Financial Assistance' includes 'Accepts Child Care Assistance Program(CCAP)'; and 'Accreditations' includes 'National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)', 'Council of Accreditation (COA)', and 'National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)'.

# Ensuring A Provider-Centered Approach

- With this new system, providers will have the ability to update the public-facing information of their center/family child care home.
- They will be able to create a description of their program that will show up when families and others search as well as add pictures of their program to show potential families what it looks like.
- A change to an email address, phone number or administrator will be as easy as a click of a button – providers will not have to wait for licensing or other entities to update on their behalf.

# Provider Profile

Providers will have the opportunity to edit any of the information that shows up on the provider search page.

Providers can update:

- Availability/Capacity to Serve
- Hours of Operation
- Contact Person/Program Administrator

Any of the changes a provider makes will need to be approved by DHS. DHS will follow up if the programs need to complete additional paperwork for the Department to approve the change.

South County YMCA Pre-School

165 Broad Rock Road, Wakefield 02879

Telephone: (401) 265-4203

Email: [esquillante@gpymca.org](mailto:esquillante@gpymca.org)

Website:

★★★★★

View Photos

About Us:

At the South County YMCA Preschool children ages 3 to 5 use their curiosity and imagination to become creative thinkers. As active learners, they work on increasing the mastery of peer interaction and cooperative play. A positive self-image is developed as children begin to become proficient in the areas of cognitive and physical development. Learning Centers rich with materials enhance the curriculum themes encouraging children to use their innate sense of exploration as they further investigate their interests. Our vigorous curriculum in our Preschool program prepares children to become independent learners and develop self-confidence for sharing in a classroom setting. Through curriculum themes based on the interests of older children we focus on the areas of pre-reading, math and science skill development. Children are immersed in social interactions with peers and adults, giving them the tools they need to succeed in and out of the school environment. As an on-site preschool our program also includes age appropriate enrichment activities like swimming, gymnastics, sports, fitness, dance, music and outdoor play. We are committed to the physical well being of all our children and provide weekly activities based on age and developmental levels.

Setting:Center

Accepts CCAP:No

License Expires:08/31/2021

License Capacity:98

COVID Capacity:Contact Program

Availability:Contact Program

Languages Spoken:English

RIDE CECE Approval:No

Contact Person:Contact Program

Program Status:Active

Hours Of Operation:

Monday:08:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Tuesday:08:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Wednesday:08:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Thursday:08:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Friday:08:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Saturday:-

Sunday:-

Age Group	Availability	License Capacity	Notes
Infant	Yes	0	Contact Program for more details
Preschool	Contact Program for more details	18	Contact Program for more details
School Age	Contact Program for more details	69	Contact Program for more details
Toddler	Yes	11	Contact Program for more details

# Future Enhancements

---

Future rollouts will include:

- Functionality for providers (and families) to access the program's most recent DHS Monitoring Report.
- Access to the Universal Application online, with the ability to submit with the press of a button as well as upload necessary paperwork.
- COVID-19 plans right online so if providers need to tweak a piece of their control plan for any reason, they will be able to re-submit and send.

# Technical Assistance

---

The rollout of this website is going to move in **three phases**.

**Phase 1:** Child Care center providers received a temporary Username and Password to access the site on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. From there, they can go on and access the training videos that are posted about how to edit their online profile.

**Phase 2:** Family Child Care providers will receive a temporary Username and Password to access the site during the first week of March. From there, they will be able to go on and access the training video (in both English and Spanish) and be able to edit their online profile.

**Phase 3:** DHS will begin to work with providers that have June 2021 renewals so they are trained to access and submit their renewal on the new Consumer website.

# Questions?

---

Any questions about the consumer website should be directed to [DHS.Childcarelicensing@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:DHS.Childcarelicensing@dhs.ri.gov).

Providers can also reach out directly to their DHS licensor or BrightStars.



# Public Comment